

**NSTAR GAS COMPANY
COMMONWEALTH ELECTRIC COMPANY
CAMBRIDGE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY
BOSTON EDISON COMPANY**

Request for an Accounting Ruling by NSTAR Gas Company, Commonwealth Electric Company, Cambridge Electric Light Company and Boston Edison Company.

On November 27, 2002, NSTAR Gas Company, Commonwealth Electric Company, Cambridge Electric Light Company and Boston Edison Company (collectively "Companies") filed with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") a request for an accounting ruling on or before December 31, 2002. Specifically, the Companies seek an accounting ruling that permits the Companies to implement the following accounting practices: (1) until otherwise ordered by the Department, the Companies will defer, and record as a regulatory asset or liability, the difference between the level of the pension and post-retirement benefits other than pensions expenses that are included in rates and the amounts that must be booked in accordance with FAS 87 and FAS 106; and (2) until otherwise ordered by the Department, the Companies will defer as a regulatory asset the amount of the Companies' current and future Additional Minimum Liability to reflect the Companies' ability to recover in rates over time its actual pension liability. The Companies argue that an accounting ruling will mitigate the negative effects of certain accounting and ratemaking requirements that are implicated as a result of the unprecedented economic circumstances of the past three years of significant equity-market declines coupled with falling interest rates.

The Department will accept written comments on the Companies request. Persons wishing to submit such comments on the Companies' proposal should file as follows: an original with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary and seven (7) copies with the Hearing Officer, Caroline M. O'Brien. The original and copies should be delivered to the Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Monday, **December 9, 2002**.

All written documents should be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us and caroline.obrien@state.ma.us or (2) on a 3.5" disk, IBM-compatible format. The text of the

e-mail or the disk label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding, (2) name of the person or company submitting the filing, and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Word Perfect (naming the document with a “.wpd” suffix), in Microsoft Word (naming the document with a “.doc” suffix), or as an Adobe PDF file (naming the document with a “.pdf” suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. All written pleadings or comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department’s Website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

The Companies’ request may be inspected at the offices of the Department during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). The Companies’ request is also available on the Department’s Website. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Caroline M. O’Brien, Hearing Officer, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, at (617) 305-3500.

By Order of the Department,

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary